

EARL BLUMENAUER

Saving the world doesn't have to be this hard



Background

People are frustrated, and they have a right to be.

Occupy Wall Street and the Tea Party agree on one thing: they see a Washington government they feel isn't being responsive to their wants and needs. Gridlock is preventing even the most non-controversial responsibilities of government from being accomplished.

At the same time, people have lost trillions in wealth which they thought they had, wages are stagnant, jobs are returning at a snail's pace. Concerns with health care cost and quality continue to dominate their lives. Washington seems to be giving all the breaks to the bad actors, not to mention that we're starting to see dramatic shifts in the climate of our planet. Global warming is a real concern, not a political ploy.

So people are frustrated. They're looking to their leaders to lead, or at least get along and get out of the way. Proponents of extreme, simple views seem to get all the media attention while the acrimony and shouting in Congress and on the airwaves turns many, especially the young, off to politics.

